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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0881  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7152  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 7486  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2822  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 5527  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6635  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3276  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4794  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2430  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3683  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000929

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2019

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SUBJECT: NEPAL: CONTROVERSIAL GENERAL'S PROMOTION ON HOLD

REF: KTM 00906

Classified By: Charge d' Affaires, a.i., Jeffrey A. Moon. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

11. (SBU) Nepal's Cabinet deferred on October 8 a decision on the promotion of Army Major General Toran Singh. Singh, who is alleged to be complicit in human rights abuses, was under consideration for promotion to Lieutenant General (reftel). The Cabinet reportedly discussed Singh's appointment but said it needed more time to study human rights allegations.

12. (SBU) Rumors of Singh's promotion have circulated since June. If promoted, Singh would be the second-in-command in the Nepal Army. The government conducted an internal investigation of Singh's alleged human rights violations and failed to come to any conclusions about his guilt or innocence.

13. (C) During a series of receptions October 3-4, Charge told Prime Minister M.K. Nepal, Nepali Congress party leader G.P. Koirala, Chief of the Army Staff General Gurung, Home Minister Bhim Rawal, Defense Minister Bidya Bhandari, Energy Minister Prakash Mahat, and Federal Minister Minendra Rizal that the United States had serious concerns about the promotion of Singh. He noted that Singh's promotion could have negative consequences for the future of U.S.-Nepal military cooperation.

14. (C) Comment: At the moment, Singh's promotion appears to be on hold. Powerful forces within Nepali politics and the Nepal Army support Singh, and this issue could reappear. Post will continue to monitor the situation and stress to Nepal counterparts the U.S. concerns regarding Singh's human rights record.  
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